Serial. No. of Issued Patent 09/139,989 Issued Patent. No. 6,340,137 Preliminary Amendment to Reissue Patent Application

## **REMARKS**

This preliminary amendment is being filed prior to an initial Office action on the merits. The preliminary amendment adds Claims 9-19, which are directed to an inventive concept disclosed in the originally-filed application. Support for the additional claims can be found in at least col. 2, ll. 36-53 and col. 3, ll. 24-29, and FIGS. 1-3 of the patent. Hence, no new matter is added. Additionally, reissue has been applied for within two years from the grant of the original patent. Claims 1-19 are now pending in this reissue application.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the preliminary amendment is believed proper pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b), and its entry is respectfully requested.

If for some reason Applicants have not paid a sufficient fee with this submittal, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

**INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ** 

Dated: 1/21/04

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